

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1467

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0900

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY

SUBJECT: QADHAFI INTERVIEWED ON EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. IN VIOLATION OF PROPAGANDA TRUCE BETWEEN LIBYA AND EGYPT ANNOUNCED AUGUST 9 BY MENA COLONEL QADHAFI HAS DISCUSSED LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS IN INTERVIEW WITH BEIRUT MAGAZINE "THE ARAB WEEK", AND LIBYAN ARMY NEWSPAPER "ALFATIH" CARRIES HIS REMARKS IN ITS AUGUST 12 EDITION. INTERVIEW SEEMS LIKELY TO ANGER SADAT, AND MAY SET WAR OF WORDS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES GOING AGAIN. IN DELIBERATELY AMBIGUOUS TERMS QADHAFI ALLEGES THAT U.S. "DEMANDS" ARE BEHIND EGYPTIAN CRITICISM OF HIM.

2. IN INTERVIEW AS PUBLISHED BY "AL-FATIH", QADHAFI ASSERTS THAT ON HIS SIDE HE HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO ESTABLISH "BROTHERLY DIALOGUE", BUT SAYS "ALL DOORS HAVE BEEN CLOSED" IN HIS FACE. HE HAD ASKED FOR MEETINGS WITH SADAT, AND SADAT ANSWERED BY PROMISING TO SEND HIGH-LEVEL MISSION TO LIBYA, BUT THEN WENT BACK ON HIS PROMISE. THINGS HAVE REACHED SUCH A PASS THAT BROTHERLY DIALOGUE IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE. LIBYAN CRITICISM OF EGYPT HAS BEEN  
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RESTRAINED, SAYS QADHAFI, WHILE EGYPT HAS LET LOOSE ALL

ITS PROPAGANDA WEAPONS. "IF WE DID THAT, PRESIDENT SADAT WOULD BE PLAGUED WITH INSOMIA", BUT TO "PRESERVE PRESIDENT SADAT'S HEALTH", LIBYA HAS NOT ANSWERED IN KIND, "EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE MANY FACTS AND RECORDINGS". PERHAPS PRESIDENT SADAT HAS LOST CONTROL OF EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS. OR PERHAPS "IT HAS BEEN DEMANDED OF EGYPT THAT SHE TAKE A STAND AGAINST THE LIBYAN REVOLUTION. IF THAT IS THE CASE, MATTER BECOMES EXTREMELY GRAVE ONE". ASKED WHETHER THINGS HAVE REACHED "A POINT OF NO RETURN", QADHAFI ANSWERS THAT "THE ONLY THING WHICH CAN BRING US TO A POINT OF NO RETURN IS IF EGYPT'S STAND WITH REGARD TO US IS A MATTER WHICH HAS BEEN DEMANDED OF HER, OR PERHAPS SHE HAS SIMPLY DECIDED ON THIS STAND HERSELF.... THE THING WHICH WOULD PREVENT US (I.E. SADAT AND QADHAFI) FROM MEETING AGAIN WOULD BE IF EGYPT HAD DECIDED ON THE STAND WHICH WE SEE, PR PERHAPS IF THAT HAD BEEN DEMANDED OF HER....AND I EMPHASIZE AND STRESSTHE WORD DEMAND- FOR IF SUCH A STAND HAS BEEN DEMANDED OF HER, THEN OUR EFFORTS AND CONTACTS AND PATIENCE AND SILENCE AND NOT ANSWERING ALL WILL BE OF NO AVAIL, AND GOOD INTENTIONS ON OUR SIDE WILL BE USELESS. PERHAPS AMERICA OR ANOTHER PARTY HAS SAID TO EGYPT THAT A QUARREL WITH LIBYA WILL BE REQARDED...".

3. COMMENT: QADHAFI'S DELIBERATELY VEILED CHARGES THAT SADAT IS DOING AMERICAN BIDDING BY ATTACKING HIM SEEM WELL CALCULATED TO APPEAL TO MANY CONSPIRATORIAL MINDS, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE LIBYA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE LEFT HIS HOUSE IN TRIPOLI SUBURB AUGUST 9, AND THAT SINCE THEN HE HAS BEEN LIVING IN TENT IN COUNTRYSIDE, WITH MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY AND FEW CLOSE AIDES. EVIDENTLY IN TALKING MOOD, QADHAFI GAVE ANOTHER INTERVIEW TO KUWAITI JOURNALIST AUGUST 12 DEALING WITH EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS. STEIN

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